World Bank's Emphasis on need for Liberalisation of Export Promotion Schemes

3181. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has stressed the need for further liberalisation of export promotion schemes, such as duty free import schemes for export and creation of supportive infrastructure services, especially the Export Processing Zones;

(b) if so, what precise proposals has been made by the World Bank in this regard; and

(c) what is the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) While the World Bank gives its assessment about current economic policies in its Annual Country Memorandum, there is no obligation or insistence that its observations should be acted upon. Government is, therefore, free to decide matters concerning trade liberalisation etc. in accordance with its own better judgement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Caution Voiced by the Director General of GATT

3182. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the caution voiced by the new Director General of GATT, reportedly saying that time was running out for free trade agreement that economic chaos would reign without one; and

(b) if so, whether any specific proposals have been made by him for an early settlement of the issue involved in the matter of adoption of a free trade agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The D. G. GATT has been emphasising the desirability of an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Although negotiations have restarted in Geneva after the G-7 Summit in Tokyo in early July, these are expected to gather momentum only in September, after the summer break. No new specific proposals have, however, been made for early settlement of the issues under negotiation.

Joint Ventures with China

3183. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Joint Ventures with China with the object of production sharing and exports to Third Countries are under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) In the Joint Group meetings on Economic Relations Trade and Science and Technology, both India and China have agreed to set up joint ventures with the object of production sharing and exports to Third Countries. However, no such proposal has been received so far.

Proposal to upgrade the post of General Manager

3184. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to up-grade the post of General Manager from the rank of Major General to Lt. General;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that this move is to create additional posts;

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the Canteen Stores Department; and

(e) whether the top management will be shifted to Delhi to ensure better supervision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The functioning of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is regularly reviewed by the Government and efforts

continuously made to improve productivity, sales performance, efficiency and customer responsiveness.

(c) The Government do not feel any need to shift the CSD Head Office from Bombay to Delhi.

Stoppage of rail service by armymen

3185. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundred irate armymen including a Captain threw rail services out of gear on the 30th July, 1993 in Jammu and Pathankot sections of the Northern Railways and as such the train services were suspended and were running late causing hardships to the passengers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Rail services were temporarily affected due to strike by railwaymen on 30-7-93 on account of alteration between a Railway Officer and an Army Officer. The differences were resolved and strike was called off on the same day.

Separate Directorate for Canteen Stores Deptt.

3186. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate Directorate of the Canteen Stores Deptt. will be created for the southern States;

(b) whether Government are aware that less efficient and responsive management is leading to less choice of goods for the jawans; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to make the management more responsive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is adequate choice of goods available in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) to meet the requirements of its customers. The management of the CSD is fully responsive to consumer needs and choices and is continuously engaged in improving its performance in terms of sales, inventory control and consumer satisfaction.

Management of Canteen Stores in Ministry of Defence

3187. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canteen Stores Deptt. (CSD) in the Defence Ministry have started functioning;

(b) whether Government will constitute a team to study the functioning of Canteen Stores Deptt. within a time bound period;

(c) whether an efficient system were all decisions are taken in a highly centralised process;

(d) whether the CSD has flouted the spirit of various policies of Government especially in regard to treatment of Ex-servicemen and their organisations and small scale units; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to ensure that Government's policies and pronouncement, are respected in spirit and word?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Canteen Stores Department (CSD), in its present form, has been functioning since 1-4-1977. The functioning of the CSD is reviewed regularly by the Government and there is no need to constitute a team to study the functioning of the CSD.

In making purchases, the CSD follows an elaborate criteria, which is based on consumer preference data, product/brand performance in the civil market, the after-sales infrastructure of the manufacturer and other commercial considerations. Any unit whether in the small or the large scale sector or an ex-serviceman's enterprise etc. who satisfies the